

Public Notice
Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan
R-Area Burning/Rubble Pits and Rubble Pile, Operable Unit

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) will release a Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan on January 7, 2004, describing the proposed remedial approach for the R-Area Burning/Rubble Pits (RBRP) and Rubble Pile (RRP), Operable Unit at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will also release a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification for the proposed remedial action for this unit. These documents will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for January 7, 2004, to February 20, 2004. These documents were completed to meet the terms of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and RCRA, laws governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. DOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region IV (US-EPA) and (SCDHEC) to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

US DOE, US EPA, and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the R-Area Burning/Rubble Pits and Rubble Pile (RBRP) operable unit at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The following actions are recommended:

The preferred alternative proposes to remove the soil that exceeds the industrial RG levels from the rubble pile material (including 1 foot beneath the rubble pile). The soil removed will be segregated as RCRA hazardous and RCRA non-hazardous based on RCRA requirements. The non-hazardous soil will be placed into the open R-Area Burning Rubble Pits sub-unit. The open pit would be backfilled to grade with rubble pile material, placing any remaining RCRA non-hazardous rubble pile material over both pits. A low permeability cover system would be installed over both pits, along with implementation of institutional controls. The RCRA hazardous soil will be disposed of at an appropriate treatment, storage, and disposal facility.

The R-Area Burning Rubble Pits (RBRP) and R-Area Rubble Pile (RRP) Operable Unit (OU) is located at SRS, approximately 7.3 km from the nearest SRS boundary. The OU includes five sub-units: RBRP pit 131-R (Closed Pit) and pit 131-1R (Open Pit), the pit perimeter, RRP (pile and soil beneath the pile), wetland, and groundwater in the vicinity. There were no prior removal actions for this operable unit.

The public comment period is scheduled for January 7, 2004 to February 20, 2004. Comments on the Proposed Plan are requested by February 20, 2004. Upon completion of the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary will be prepared which addresses public comments. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the Record of Decision, and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available in the administrative record, which also contains the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) report for these units. The administrative record is available in the information repositories listed below:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available at the following:

- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modification/s are available for review at SCDHEC during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the following locations:

SCDHEC
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
8911 Farrow Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29203
Phone: (803)896-4000

or

SCDHEC
Lower Savannah District
Environmental Quality Control Office
218 Beaufort St., N.E.
Aiken, SC 29802
Phone: (803) 641-7670

If there is interest in discussing this recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the draft RCRA Permit modification and requests for public hearings of the Draft RCRA Permit modification should be sent to:

SCDHEC
Attn: John Litton, P.E., Director
Division of Waste Management
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 896-4000

Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and requests for public meetings may be sent to:

Jim Moore
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Savannah River Site
Building 742-A
Aiken, SC 29808
1-800-249-8155
jim02.moore@srs.gov